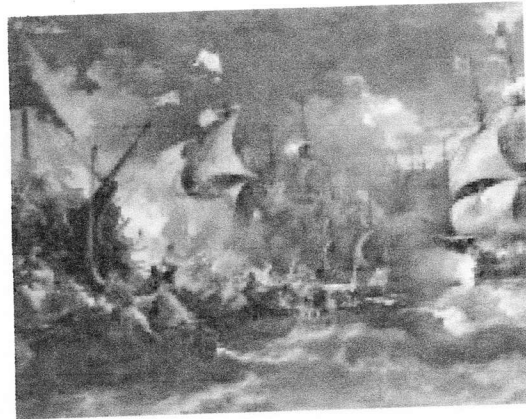


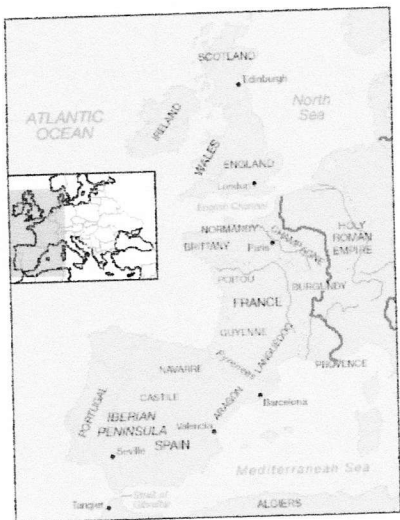
In the 16th century, Europe was becoming organized into the countries that we now know today. Now, armies were larger, and the stakes were higher as countries fought each other for power and territory. A few of the large, seafaring countries fought for even larger prizes. England and Spain were two of these large countries. Both had wanted to extend their power beyond their own borders.



At one time, Spain and England had been with one another. They traded with each other. King Philip II of Spain and Queen Elizabeth I of England had even worked together at times. However, their goals threatened any friendship between the two rulers.

Some of the problems were over trade. English traders had attacked Spanish ships for their goods. They even attacked Spanish colonies in America. These attacks angered Spain.

Some of their differences were over religion. Spain was a Catholic country and England was a Protestant one. The Protestant Queen Elizabeth, was helping rebels who were fighting against the Catholic church in other European countries. This made Spain angry at England.



Western Europe was already considerably different then.

In 1588, Spain sent an Armada to help their friend in the Netherlands, in northern Europe. He was the Duke of Parma. The Spanish Armada ran into trouble even before it met up with Parma's troops. It was spotted off the coast of England and was soon under attack by the British forces led by Lord Howard.

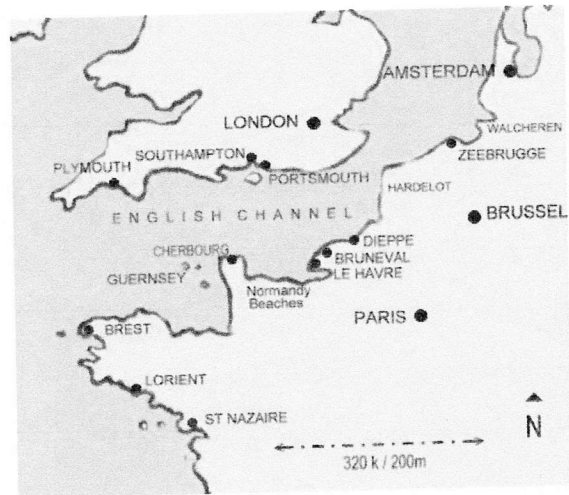
In one battle, Lord Howard set fireships floating towards the Armada. These were old wrecked ships that the English filled with wood and tar. Then they set them on fire and released them to sail in the direction of the Armada. The Spanish sailors were forced to cut their own anchor chains to escape.

The next day, the two sides met in the Battle of Gravelines, France. The Spanish troops had been trained in the seize and grapple technique that had been used in other sea battles. This meant that sailors used grappling hooks to latch onto an enemy ship. Then the sailors boarded the enemy ship for hand-to-hand combat. At Gravelines, however, the English attacked from a distance using their new long-range cannons. The Spanish never even had a chance to fight back.

The Spanish were good soldiers and sailors, and so were the English. Both sides regrouped and prepared for another day. Battles between the two sides continued for about a week. Finally, the Spanish gave up their plans to meet Parma and set sail for home, going the long way around the north of England to avoid the enemy ships.

Then, Spain was struck by nature itself. A huge Atlantic storm blew the ships from their formation. It drove some of the ships onto shore. Many ships were lost. Losses were even heavier than they had been in battle. Many sailors were never heard from again. The remains of the Spanish Armada returned to Spain.

The Spanish Armada had been defeated; however, both sides regrouped once again, and the war between Spain and England continued for many more years. Spain remained a great seafaring nation, and it continued its colonization of America as well. England too remained a great seafaring nation, and would begin colonizing America too in the years to come.



- _____ 1. The Spanish Armada was defeated by _____.
A. England
B. France
C. Spain
D. Netherlands
- _____ 2. The battles between the English ships and the Spanish Armada occurred in the _____.
A. English countryside
B. Pacific Ocean
C. English Channel
D. Atlantic Ocean
- _____ 3. How was the Netherlands involved in the defeat of the Spanish Armada?
A. It was the location of the major land battles.
B. England and Spain supported opposite sides of a religious conflict there.
C. Both England and Spain hoped to establish colonies there.
D. Spain's ships were all built in the Netherlands.
- _____ 4. The Duke of Parma was the leader of _____.
A. Spain
B. The English fleet of sailing ships
C. England
D. Spanish troops in the Netherlands
- _____ 5. Fireships were _____.
A. used to attack the Armada
B. Spanish ships burned by the English
C. ships with long range cannons
D. all of the above
- _____ 6. Gravelines was _____.
A. the location of a new colony
B. the name of a Spanish ship
C. the name of a British ship
D. the location of a battle
- _____ 7. After the defeat of the Spanish Armada, _____.
A. England claimed all of Spain's ships
B. Spain no longer had any ships
C. Spain once again built a strong fleet
D. Spain ended its colonization of America
- _____ 8. One effect of the defeat of the Spanish Armada was the new importance of _____ in warfare.
A. hand-to-hand combat
B. technology
C. metal armor
D. sailing

Suppose that the Spanish Armada had not been defeated by the British in 1588. What effect do you think this would have had on future events in history?
